

SCS SB 73 -- MISSOURI COMMISSION ON OBESITY

SPONSOR: Bland (Holand)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Health Care Policy by a vote of 11 to 3.

This substitute establishes the Missouri Commission on Prevention and Management of Obesity within the Department of Health and Senior Services. The commission is required to cooperate with various federal and state departments for the purpose of developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to obesity prevention and management.

The functions and duties of the commission are specified in the substitute. The commission will terminate on August 28, 2005.

The commission will consist of 22 members and is required to conduct its first meeting by October 1, 2003, and quarterly thereafter. The commission is required to submit a report to the Governor and the House Budget and Senate Appropriations committees by August 28, 2005. The contents of the report are contained in the substitute.

The department is required to establish a resource databank containing information about obesity and related subjects by January 1, 2004. The department is also required to provide technical assistance to schools and school districts for the purpose of creating healthy school nutrition environments.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that obesity is a state and national health problem. Currently, over 71 million persons are affected by obesity and obesity-related health problems. An increasing number of Missouri residents are obese, and the number of children who are obese is increasing. It is important that Missouri begin to promote greater awareness and prevention of the problem of obesity.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Bland; and American Heart Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Joseph Deering, Legislative Analyst